

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

7 JULY 1983

U.S., French Diplomacy

Shultz Tour — After meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus, Secretary of State Shultz arrived in Israel for talks with Israeli leaders on plans for the IDF's redeployment in Lebanon, Jerusalem radio reported. Israeli political sources cited by the radio said that, in light of Shultz' failure to bring anything encouraging with him, his tour should be viewed as "much ado about nothing." Earlier, during a lengthy meeting with Shultz, President al-Asad pointed out that the Lebanese-Israeli agreement contains clauses that are "more harmful and serious" than those in the Camp David accords and reaffirmed Syria's demand for Israel's unconditional withdrawal from Lebanon, Damascus radio reported. Shultz noted in a predeparture statement reported by SANA that he and Al-Asad "did not agree on many points." Nevertheless, the United States and the Syrians did agree to maintain a dialogue through a joint working group, Jerusalem radio noted.

Shultz will visit Jordan and Egypt on 7 July, according to PETRA-JNA and Cairo radio.

Commenting on the Shultz tour, Damascus radio affirmed that what Syria rejects out of its commitment to defend itself and the Arab nation "will be rejected under all circumstances." Neither temptations and promises nor implicit threats of aggression can change Syria's decision, the radio added.

On the other hand, a Baghdad Voice of PLO radio commentary warned against the likelihood of an imminent U.S.-sponsored Syrian-Israeli agreement to partition Lebanon and strike at the Palestinian presence there.

Cheysson Tour — French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson held talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in Jerusalem and subsequently arrived in Baghdad, where he was welcomed by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, Jerusalem radio and INA reported. Shamir expressed concern to Cheysson about French-Iraqi nuclear cooperation, the radio noted.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has informed Syrian President al-Asad that, unless Syrian forces begin separating the warring Palestinian movements in Al-Biqa' within 48 hours, 'Arafat will order his forces there to withdraw to northern Lebanon prior to an eventual withdrawal outside Lebanon, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Although other monitored sources did not confirm this report, a Palestinian source close to the PLO leadership disclosed that the Fatah Central Committee has discussed the possibility of withdrawing Fatah forces from Al-Biqa' to Tripoli, northern Lebanon, according to Radio Monte Carlo. The Fatah Central Committee also announced several changes in its internal administration, the

radio noted. Khalid al-Hasan will henceforth head the information department instead of 'Arafat, who will be in charge of the financial department, while Salah Khalaf becomes responsible for security matters.

Meanwhile, the PLO special committee headed by PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum arrived in Tunis to brief the Fatah Central Committee on the outcome of its contacts in Damascus, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported. Although Al-Fahum's committee has succeeded in committing the two parties in Fatah to an unwritten cease-fire, it has not yet made any essential progress, Radio Monte Carlo said. In other political developments, Palestinian sources in Tunis disclosed that a Fatah delegation will shortly hold talks on the current situation with Saudi King Fahd and that Yasir 'Arafat will visit the Soviet Union within the coming week, according to KUNA.

Despite the proclaimed cease-fire between Fatah loyalists and dissidents in Al-Biqa', Baghdad Voice of PLO radio accused the "black and rancorous gangs led by Ahmad Jibril" of launching another attack, "under Syrian protection," on loyalist positions near Shtawrah. Beirut radio confirmed that clashes erupted in the area but cited news agency reports that the Syrians shelled both sides to stop the fighting. According to the Voice of Lebanon, the Syrians destroyed a loyalist missile position in the area. In another development, seven officers of Fatah's Squad 17 arrived in Damascus where they announced that they have ignored orders to withdraw to northern Lebanon and have decided to join the dissidents, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

Lebanon

Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan escaped assassination when a car bomb exploded in the As-Sanayi' area of Beirut shortly after his motorcade passed by, Beirut radio reported on 7 July.

Israel

Lebanon Policy — A 6 July incident in Lebanon — in which the IDF responded to fire from "terrorist bases" in the Syrian-controlled area — was intended to stress that the IDF will react sharply to any provocation by the "terrorists," according to defense sources cited by IDF Radio. The IDF will not initiate incidents but will react to them as it chooses, the sources said. Meanwhile, the government committee on security affairs discussed IDF redeployment plans but made no decisions, Jerusalem radio noted. The government is likely to adopt the defense minister's recommendation that the IDF redeploy in stages, reaching the Al-Awwali River in November, the radio added.

Denial of Report on Habib — The editor of the daily *Hamodi'a* denied Arab media stories that the paper has published a report of an assassination attempt against U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib, according to *Davar*.

Syria-Jordan

Damascus radio reported that "popular turmoil" among the Bani Hasan tribe in northern Jordan has reached the point of a "popular uprising" against the regime in response to Prime Minister Mudar Badran's "oppressive measures" against citizens in Az-Zarqa', Jarash, and Al-Mafraq. Jordanian security forces have killed or wounded at least 20 persons in violent clashes with the tribes and arrested about 1,000 persons, the radio reported earlier citing Amman sources. Damascus radio also broadcast a statement by the Jordanian branch of the Ba'th Party Regional Command expressing solidarity with the Bani Hasan and calling for the overthrow of the "agent" government in Amman. In a related report, Jerusalem radio said Syria may be responsible for inciting the people in northern Jordan against King Husayn's government.

Iranian Hijacking

An Iranian airliner on an internal flight was hijacked to Paris via Kuwait, Tehran radio reported on 7 July. The hijackers released 187 women, children, and older men in Kuwait before continuing to Paris with 184 remaining male passengers. The radio criticized Kuwaiti authorities for providing the plane with fuel and allowing it to depart, asserting that this action "supported the hijacking and thus aided international terrorism."

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Rebel Group Surrenders, Uses General Amnesty*LD070648 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 7 Jul 83*

[Text] Kabul, July 6, BAKHTAR — A fifty-member group of counter-revolutionaries from Darzab District of Faryab Province, with its leader Abdul Rahman Pahalwan has recently surrendered itself availing of the decree of general amnesty.

'Counterrevolutionary Elements Crushed' in Qades*LD061835 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 6 Jul 83*

[Text] A number of counterrevolutionary elements who were disrupting the peaceful life of the toiling people of Qades District, Badghisat Province, were crushed today by the security force. A spokesman for the security forces of Badghisat Province said that 7 assorted weapons and 11 horses were seized from these criminals.

KABUL NEW TIMES on Shultz Visit to Pakistan*LD070912 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 7 Jul 83*

[Text] Kabul, July 6, BAKHTAR — The visit of the US Secretary of State George Shultz to Pakistan and back to the Middle East as scheduled by the Reagan administration is part of the United States imperialism's attempt to lay its hand on the gigantic Continent of Asia writes "*Kabul New Times*".

As a result of the policy of colonialism and imperialism our continent and region have been regretfully subjected to constant instability and tension, the newspaper goes on.

The warmongering colonialists and imperialists headed by the US have always strived to keep this continent in turmoil for the simple reason to serve their own imperialist interests.

It is evidenced by the build up of US bases in Diego Garcia which has constituted a threat to the safety of all countries bordering on the Indian Ocean.

In Pakistan Shultz visited the camps of Afghan counterrevolutionaries where he promised increased military assistance to the Afghan counter-revolutionary bandits to kill their brothers in Afghanistan and carry out subversive activities in their own homeland. In his meeting with the Pakistani military rulers the State Secretary of the United States Shultz moved one step forward to further intensify imperialist and military designs in the region. This visit can easily be called a provocative visit. It shows that the US imperialism is not willing to let the issue around Afghanistan settle down peacefully according to the constructive proposals of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

It is certain that the people of this region are fully aware of the political and militaristic designs of the US imperialism and international reaction. The people of Asia in general and that of our country in particular have awakened against the imperialist plots and conspiracies of the United States and are fully prepared to defend their lands against their imperialist aggressions and to consolidate their national independence, territorial integrity and national sovereignty, the newspaper concluded.

Briefs

Cultural Agreement With CSCE — Kabul, June 29, BAKHTAR — An agreement of cooperation for the establishment of cultural and information centers in Kabul and Prague was signed in a ceremony here today between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia. The agreement was signed by Abdul Qadir Ashna, president of the state cultural committee of the DRA and Vaclav Kollea, the ambassador of Czechoslovakia in Kabul. [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0425 GMT 30 Jun 83 LD]

Tajik Official Departs — Mukhamed Asimov, head of the Tajik SSR Academy of Sciences, who had come to Kabul at the invitation of the DRA Academy of Sciences for an official visit, left this morning for his country. Sulayman Lae'q, head of the DRA Academy of Sciences, and scientists and staff of the academy said goodbye to Mukhamed Asimov. [Text] [Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Jun 83 LD]

Journalists Union Stages 'Pen Down Strike'

BK051650 Hong Kong AFP in English 1607 GMT 5 Jul 83

[Text] Dhaka, July 5 (AFP) — Journalists here today observed a two-hour "pen down strike" to support their demands for the repeal of a decision to close the Bengali daily *Dainik Desh* by the paper's management. The strike was called by the Dhaka Union of Journalists, representing some 725 writers, to protest the paper's closing last Saturday. The union also demanded a festival bonus and cost-of-living allowances for journalists at *Dainik Desh* and the English-language *New Nation*.

A union spokesman said the strike, which effected all of Dhaka's nearly two dozen newspapers, several weeklies and two news agencies, was widely followed. The 55 journalists at *Dainik Desh* had already been out on strike July 1 to press for the implementation of a 15 percent cost-of-living allowance provided several months earlier by the newspaper employees wage board, in addition to a bonus for the upcoming Eid festival [Muslim festival after Ramadan]. As a result of the strike, the paper failed to publish on July 2, and the paper's management in turn closed the publication in response to what it called an illegal strike.

The *Dainik Desh* was founded by the late President Ziaur Rahman and had been the organ of his party, BNP, until its recent sale to another BNP leader and former Minister Mueenul Islam.

Journalist union leaders said the decision to close down *Dainik Desh* had thrown into question the fate of over 200 employees, including 55 journalists, at the paper. Two other newspaper employees federations representing press workers and administrative employees also issued statements expressing concern at the closure of *Dainik Desh* and demanding immediate resumption of publication and fulfillment of employee demands.

Strikes here are illegal under the country's martial law regulations, but the government had not yet reacted to today's pen down action by the journalists. Union leaders are scheduled to meet later today to decide on a future course of action.

Finance Minister Announces 1983-84 Budget

BK010733 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 1 Jul 83

[Excerpt] The national budget for the financial year beginning today estimates a revenue receipt of 33,446.1 million taka and revenue expenditure of 24,135.4 million taka, leaving a (?surplus) of 9,310.7 million taka for development programs, a 27,780 million taka revenue receipt from taxation, and 5,666.1 million from nontax revenue. The main part of the revenue income will come from customs duty, sales tax, and excise duties. The revenue expenditure includes an allocation of unexpected expenditure of 1,970 million taka. This year's budget incorporates receipts and expenditure on the railway account.

Announcing the budget at the old Sangsad Bhavan yesterday, the finance minister said there will be some noticeable changes in the new budget. Education has been given the top priority in the budget with an allocation of 3,184.2 million taka. Similarly, the allocation for the health sector has been increased to 1,140 million taka. The finance minister said the expenditure in the railway sector has increased primarily because of the increased fuel bill. The allocation for cash subsidy for food distribution is, however, lower for two reasons. It is expected that off-take from the government's stocks will be less and [word indistinct] of ration prices will reduce subsidy bill.

Expected foreign loans and grants in the coming year has been estimated at 34,150 million taka, which is about 18 percent higher than that of the current year. The share of project assistance will be 15,230 million taka; commodity assistance, 11,160 million taka; aid, 6,060 million taka; and project aid outside [word indistinct], 1,660 million taka.

In food sector, the production of foodgrains has been estimated at 16.1 million tons, while domestic procurement of food will be 700,000 tons. The import target of food has been set at 1.4 million tons. With 400,000 tons for food for work program, the total off-take of foodgrains in the coming year will be 7 million tons; leaving at the year-end a stock of about 1.1 million tons. The total food budget, including foreign aid and receipts, shows a net expenditure of 9,450 million taka. The size of the food for work program will be expanded with a provision of 1,590 million taka as against 1,480 million taka in the revised estimates.

The size of the annual development program for the current fiscal year will be about 33,840 million taka. Of the total, 6,684.8 million taka will be available from internal resources, while the share of foreign aid will be 28,155.6 million taka.

The production and supply of gas and electricity during the coming fiscal year will be increased substantially. At the year-end four new gas wells will produce 110 million cubic feet a day, while the supply of electric power will be improved by 190 megawatts.

In the agricultural sector, 1.2 million acres of additional land will be brought under irrigation bringing the total area under irrigation to over 6.25 million acres.

In the light of the last year's experience, the development program and the monetary and credit policy for the current year has been drawn up. Growth rate has been estimated at 6 percent, while inflation rate is expected to be between 10 and 12 percent. [Word indistinct] measures adopted in the new budget aim at providing relief to the poor from the burden of taxes, helping the domestic industries to expand and augmenting the production process and bringing rationality and (?equating) tax administration.

Canada's MacEachen Leaves for Pakistan 6 Jul*BK001354 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 6 Jul 83*

[Text] The Canadian deputy prime minister, Mr Allan MacEachen, left New Delhi for Islamabad today after a 4-day visit to the country. He was seen off at the airport by the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, and senior officials of his ministry.

Talking to newsmen before his departure, Mr MacEachen said his talks with Indian leaders have been very helpful in understanding India's views on several important matters. He discussed with Indian leaders matters of mutual interest and the international economic situation.

Pakistani Paper Says USSR Offers Latest Armaments*GF031200 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 25 Jun 83 p 1*

[Text] New Delhi, 24 Jun — The Soviet Union has offered India its latest technology for the manufacture of armaments. This was revealed by the Indian defense minister, Mr Venkataraman, in Moscow at the conclusion of his 4-day tour of the Soviet Union.

He said that the terms and conditions for loans meet India's defense requirements. The Soviet Union has agreed to provide the latest in tanks, missiles, and MiGs.

First Indigenous Atomic Powerplant Commissioned*BK031029 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Jul 83*

[Text] The Kalpakkam atomic power station near Madras has been commissioned. The plant's first unit attained criticality around 2100 last night. With the commissioning of this atomic power station, India has entered a new phase in its atomic energy program and joined a select band of countries which have the capability to design, build, and commission nuclear power stations. The other countries are: the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France, Sweden, Japan, and West Germany.

This atomic station is the first nuclear powerplant to be built in the country fully indigenously. Before it went critical, several statutory and exacting tests were done on the insulations to establish its reliability of the safety and control system. The 235-megawatt first unit will start generating power in a month's time. Low power tests are planned for about 3 to 4 weeks after which steam produced by the reactor will be supplied to the turbine for generating electricity which will be supplied to the southern grid.

The commissioning of the plant will enable India to accelerate the program of producing electric power by harnessing the atom. It will help speed up the industrial and agricultural development. The chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Dr H.N. Sethna, has described the event as historic. He was present at the plant when it went critical.

PATRIOT Reports More on Pakistan Nuclear Test*BK020915 Delhi PATRIOT in English 26 Jun 83 pp 1, 7*

[By R.K. Mishra]

[Text] Pakistan's nuclear tunnel in the Ras Koh mountain range in Baluchistan might have caved in on 13 June, according to competent observers.

Experts are also of the view that the equipment brought to the test site for detonating the nuclear device might also have been damaged.

Experts monitoring Islamabad's atomic bomb programme do not rule out the possibility that Pakistan's attempt to detonate the nuclear device went awry due to last-minute technological complications which Pakistani scientists could not handle and, therefore, they failed to carry out a "clean" and fully successful explosion.

A leading expert told me on Saturday that in all probability the nuclear tunnel which Pakistan had constructed in the Ras Koh range, south east of Dalbandin, caved in on 13 June. The tunnelling activities are confirmed by the satellite photographs. It is also possible that the equipment brought to the test site by Pakistan was damaged. This explains the intriguing Pakistani silence about the seismic event.

It is difficult to verify at this stage if there were any casualties. It is possible that the Pakistani authorities decided to keep their mouth shut so as to prevent panic about radiation hazards.

New Delhi has reasons to be satisfied at the alertness of the scientific institutions and the efficacy of monitoring arrangements in this country. The precision and accuracy with which the Gauribidnaur centre recorded the seismic event near Quetta on 13 June shows that India is keeping a close watch over Pakistan's nuclear programme and that Islamabad will not be able to carry out any test's without India knowing about it.

Indian nuclear scientists are following the developments closely and there is no cause for panic, these sources said. Appropriate steps are being taken and Indian response will be formulated with care, they added.

All the related scientific and technical data collected by scientists about this event has been collated and is being evaluated.

Experts are also engaged in investigating the real reasons of Pakistan's complete silence on this event. Several hypotheses are being examined in the light of available data.

A few years ago Pakistan had signed a contract with C.E.S. Kalthoff in Freiburg for the supply of components needed for a flourine plant which is a crucial component in enrichment technology.

Pakistan has been following the centrifuge technique, the advantage of this technique being that the drums that rotate can be

added on as and when they are available. The drums are made of hardened martenistic steel. Dr Abdul Qadir Khan, director of the Pakistan Enrichment Programme, is believed to have procured 6,200 martenistic age-hardened steel tubes. The supply was obtained from companies in the UK, Netherlands, Switzerland, West Germany and the U.S.

Vakkum Apparate Technick, a firm in Haag, Switzerland, had supplied vacuum related high precision instrument to Pakistan. KORA, another Swiss engineering firm, supplied evaporators and condensers which are vital for operation of a hexaflouride plant.

The German firm Team Industries and Dutch firm (?Walgate) supplied invertors to Pakistan. The component heightens electric frequency, speeding up the centrifuge process to separate the fissionable uranium (U-235) from natural uranium.

Kennedy Airport officials had intercepted zirconium being loaded on a plane. It was being exported to an ex-Pakistan Army colonel, Dr Sarfaraj Mir, through S.J. Enterprises.

U.S. sources also confirmed that at Khuta, near Islamabad, an unsafeguarded enrichment plant was under construction. It was protected by air-defence missiles and subject to tight security. The then Assistant Secretary of State Thomas Pickering went on record during a U.S. Senate hearing that at the Pakistan Institute of Science and Technology near Islamabad there was also in existence a pilot reprocessing plant.

The Pakistan Embassy, expectedly, denied in Delhi on Saturday that Islamabad had exploded a nuclear device. But the embassy denial was cryptic; it did not deny the occurrence of the seismic event which was monitored at the BARC [Bhaba Atomic Research Center] centre near Bangalore. Pakistan has also not explained the reasons of its silence about the event if it was a normal earthquake.

Mr Agha Shahi, the then Foreign Minister of Pakistan, had made it clear in 1981 that his Government had given no undertaking about renunciation of nuclear explosions.

President Reagan has backtracked his predecessors' commitment, at least during the early period of the Carter tenure, on non-proliferation. In fact, the U.S. has been leaving enough loopholes to enable Pakistan to go ahead with acquisition of nuclear capability as well as obtain sophisticated military hardware from Washington. It was obvious from the argument advanced by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State James Buckley in a letter to *The New York Times* in which he drew a distinction between explosion of a peaceful nuclear device and a nuclear weapon.

In a bid to take advantage of this distinction, a Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman's statement in Islamabad on Saturday denying the explosion of a nuclear device said that "The Government of Pakistan has reiterated on numerous occasions that it has no intention to develop nuclear weapons." The press note, full of fulminations against *Patriot*, does not deal with the central issue: Did a seismic event occur on 13 June with the epicentre south of Quetta? Is it true that its magnitude was around 4.5 in the Richter scale? If so, why did the Pakistani Government remain silent about it?

Knowledgeable sources recall that, though Islamabad has been denying any plans to make a nuclear bomb, the Pakistani Embassy in Washington had asked Mr John Phillips of Princeton University for his 34-page report entitled "An assessment of the problems and possibilities confronting a terrorist group or a non-nuclear nation attempting to design a crude Pu-239 Fission Bomb."

Reportage on Rajiv Gandhi 10-Day Visit to USSR

For Moscow and Delhi reportage on Rajiv Gandhi's visit to the Soviet Union, his talks with A.P. Shitikov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet, and an *Izvestiya* interview prior to his departure, see the South Asia section of the 6 July Soviet Union *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Zia To Announce Future Political System 14 August

*BK061724 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT
6 Jul 83*

[Text] The president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has reiterated that he will announce the future political structure on the 14th of August as promised by him. In an informal chat with newsmen at an Iftar [breaking of fast] reception in Rawalpindi this evening, the president said it was his commitment to the nation.

In reply to a question about the reports of the various committees entrusted with the task of proposing the future political setup of the country, the president said their recommendations would be examined.

Yaqub Khan, MacEachen Speak on Afghanistan, Ties

*BK070826 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT
7 Jul 83*

[Text] The [Canadian] deputy prime minister and secretary of state for external affairs, Allan MacEachen, has commended Pakistan's determination to seek a just and lasting solution to the Afghan problem and has said his country will continue to support Pakistan's efforts.

Speaking at a dinner given in his honor by Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in Islamabad last night, MacEachen said his country is proud of contributing to Pakistan's efforts for the relief of the Afghan refugees. He said Canada will provide \$19 million in further aid for the Afghan refugees this year, bringing the total Canadian contribution to \$56 million.

Referring to relations between Pakistan and Canada, he said their most important feature has been cooperation for development in the last 35 years. He cited the example of various projects completed through this cooperation. He said Canadian development efforts in Pakistan are now directed toward the social sector, with significant results.

The Canadian deputy prime minister noted Pakistan's significant growth rate in gross domestic production despite unfavorable international economic conditions, which was praised at the recent aid-to-Pakistan consortium meeting. He noted with satisfaction that since last year's meeting between President General

Mohammad Ziaul Haq and the Pakistan-Canada trade and economic council in Montreal, the council has rendered great services in connection with promoting bilateral trade.

Regarding North-South dialogue, he said Canada is trying to help developing countries reach their full potential. He said Pakistan and Canada must play a crucial role in this connection and show initiative and determination in meeting this challenge.

Earlier, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said in his speech that the indirect talks on Afghanistan have made substantial progress. Given sincerity, good will, and patience, he said they would overcome the remaining obstacles to a comprehensive settlement of the problem. He said the international support including that of Canada for these negotiations is encouraging and will greatly help in implementing principles laid down in the resolutions of the United Nations and the Islamic Conference Organization while finding a solution for the Afghanistan problem.

He appreciated the humanitarian assistance provided by the international community including Canada for the care of the Afghan refugees in Pakistan. He said Mr MacEachen will see the magnitude of the problem and relief work when he visits a refugee camp near Peshawar today.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said the Canadian deputy prime minister's visit reflects the understanding and joint efforts of Pakistan and Canada to promote international cooperation in the interest of world peace and security and reflects close bilateral relations. He appreciated Canada's role in the North-South dialogue for a new international economic order and for the cause of the Third World countries at the Williamsburg summit.

Telecommunications Link to PRC Completed

*BK060953 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT
5 Jul 83*

[Text] The permanent telecommunication link along the Karakoram Highway up to Khunjerab Pass has been completed, establishing a telecommunications link between Pakistan and China. The project was completed by the special communications organization in the record time of 45 days. The 90-km link passes through some of the most difficult terrain and treacherous weather conditions.

SRI LANKA

2 Dailies Banned; Rail Link With North Halted*BK030915 Hong Kong AFP in English 0853 GMT 3 Jul 83*

[Text] Colombo, July 3 (AFP) — Sri Lanka was without its only two provincial newspapers today after the government banned them, charging them with distorting news from the north where 14 people have died in race-related violence in the past three weeks. It was also without a key rail link as the service from here to the northern capital of Jaffna remained closed following an attack on a station and a train by armed Tamil separatists. The two newspapers, *The Saturday Review* and the Tamil-language *Suthanthiran*, were closed by the government yesterday and their presses were sealed. In a statement, the Ministry of State accused the two newspapers of "grossly distorting versions of major incidents in the north and of exacerbating communal feelings." They were accused of particularly distorting news about the Tamil Eelam Liberation Front (TELF). In the past three weeks, 14 people have died in violence pitching the majority Sinhalese against minority Tamils in the northeastern port city of Trincomalee. About 300 people have been arrested in connection with these incidents at Trincomalee, 250 km (150 miles) from here, which has been placed under curfew. The crackdown in the newspapers came after security forces in Jaffna had detained the TELF's president, Mr. S.A. Dharmalingam, and its secretary, Kovi Mahesan, for calling on people in the north to demonstrate on Friday. Under emergency regulations now in force, only authorised demonstrations are allowed. Meanwhile, the railway service between here and Jaffna remained halted following Friday's well-coordinated attack by Tamil militants on a railway station at Kondavil. They destroyed the station's communications and attacked a train which arrived shortly afterwards, *The Ceylon Daily News* reported. Armed Tamils cleared passengers from 10 carriages which were then splashed with petrol and set ablaze, it reported. Total damage from the attack was estimated today at 60 million rupees (\$2.6 million dollars) and the authorities said that they would not replace the rolling stock in the Colombo-Jaffna rail service, the railway's most lucrative line. There was no indication when the service would be resumed. President Junius Jayewardene yesterday called on people to reject the Tamil militant's separatist call. "All in Sri Lanka should live without division, without killing each other and without hatred ... and work for prosperity. This country is big enough for all of us," he said at a ceremony marking the opening of a major Canadian-aided reservoir project.

Government Denies Amnesty International Charges*BK061148 Hong Kong AFP in English 1109 GMT 6 Jul 83*

[Text] Colombo, July 6 (AFP) — The Sri Lankan Government today denied recent allegations by the human rights group Amnesty International that people arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act in Sri Lanka had been tortured. "The government wishes to issue an emphatic denial to this allegation" said a Foreign Ministry statement issued after today's weekly cabinet meeting. A recently issued report of an amnesty mission, which visited Sri Lanka in January last year, spoke of human rights violations in this country. "Both the law and the procedures

adopted for detention are designed to ensure that a person arrested is not tortured," the Foreign Ministry statement said. The mission from the London-based group came here to assess reports, which it is said to have received in 1981, of human rights violations and make recommendations. It is understood that the government did not officially meet the mission.

"It is a matter for regret that Amnesty International has chose to lightly dismiss, or even completely ignore, the terrorist activities indulged in by the terrorist groups and which led to the enactment of the Prevention of Terrorism Act," the Foreign Ministry stated. The statement pointed out that 73 people have been killed by terrorists since 1977. The victims included 37 police and armed service personnel, nine politicians and 13 police informants, it added. The terrorists referred to are militant Tamil separatists who are fighting to establish an independent Tamil state. The government said that the mission seemed to have completely overlooked the existence of terrorism. "They can hardly be said to be conversant with the situation existing in Sri Lanka to make recommendations as they have presumed to do." The statement said that the government was committed to the full protection of human rights of all persons in Sri Lanka and took seriously the international obligations it had entered into in acceding to the international covenants on human rights. "At the same time it is determined to root out terrorism and preserve the democratic way of life in Sri Lanka," it added.

Tamil Militants Attack State Institutions*BK070910 Hong Kong AFP in English 0859 GMT 7 Jul 83*

[Excerpts] Colombo, July 7 (AFP) — Armed groups of Tamil separatists attacked three different state institutions in the north, demanding the release of two leaders of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Front (TELF) who are being detained by security forces, police said today. They said the most serious of yesterday's attacks was on the Kankasanthurai cement factory, 415 km (about 258 miles) from here. Militant armed separatists, dressed in army uniforms, tied up the security guards and stole three electronic detonators and a dynamite griller. The detonators, matched with sufficient charges of dynamite, are capable of blowing up bridges, causeways and concrete buildings, the police said.

Meanwhile, in another incident yesterday, six armed youths entered a district administrator's office in Mallur near the northern capital of Jaffna and ordered all officials out. They then smashed up telephones, typewriters and other equipment causing several extensive damage, official sources said. After smashing up the office, the militants put up a poster demanding the release of S.A. Dharmalingam and Kovi Mahesan, the president and secretary of the TELF who were detained under the current emergency regulations for organising a demonstration. The third incident was at a nearby post office where two youths armed with revolvers entered and threatened the woman official. They left after breaking the telephone and scales. Informed sources believe this armed pressure was being applied in the hope of bringing about a release of the TELF leaders. *The Island* newspaper reported today that the two youths were brought to Colombo by helicopter yesterday. Writs of habeas corpus for them were filed in a Colombo high court yesterday.

Reportage on Hijacked Iranian Plane

Departure From Kuwait for Paris

GF070620 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT
7 Jul 83

[Text] A 747 passenger plane of the Islamic Republic of Iran with 390 passengers and crew, which was hijacked en route from Shiraz to Tehran by a few armed men, left Kuwait airport at 0200 this morning for Paris after releasing 187 of its passengers.

IRNA has reported that the identity of the hijackers is not yet known and probably they number 5 or 6. After the plane landed at 2030 last night in Kuwait, the hijackers demanded fuel, water, and food from the Kuwaiti authorities.

After the forced landing at Kuwait airport, Mr 'Ali Shams Ardakani, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kuwait, went to Kuwait airport to negotiate with the hijackers.

The report added that the Kuwaiti officials restrained from disclosing the identities of the hijackers and that the demands of the hijackers have not been announced. The 187 released passengers are mostly women, children, and old men. The remaining 184 passengers are all men.

The Islamic Republic of Iran airline, HOMA, in a communique declared that the released passengers who are safe and well have been transferred to Dubayy by two Kuwait Airline planes and will be arriving in Tehran on flight No 6,560 of the Islamic Republic of Iran airline, HOMA, at 1150 today.

It must be mentioned that the Kuwaiti authorities without considering all the international rules and regulations and notwithstanding the efforts and exertions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of our country, not only refused to cooperate with the Islamic Republic, but by providing sufficient fuel for maximum flight for the hijacked plane and allowing the plane to depart Kuwait Airport, practically fulfilled the demands of the hijackers and by this action supported the hijacking and thus aided international terrorism.

Landing at Orly Airport

NC070652 Paris AFP in English 0648 GMT 7 Jul 83

[Excerpt] Paris, July 7 (AFP) — An Iranian Boeing-747 hijacked over Iran yesterday landed at Orly International Airport at 7:40 A.M. this morning, despite air controllers' orders that it was banned from doing so.

French security forces immediately moved to surround the plane, which had earlier taken off from Kuwait where 186 of the 390 passengers and crew on board were released.

But the security forces later moved a short distance away after the five or six hijackers — by now on a remote part of the huge airport — threatened to blow the plane up if they did not withdraw completely from sight. The security forces include units of the so-called "super-gendarmes" (GIGN) which is always mobilised in hijack cases. Shortly after the plane landed

with its 204 passengers and crew, senior police official Maurice Theys started negotiations with the hijackers from the air control tower.

Authoritative French sources said there were five hijackers on board the plane, and that they claimed to be members of the main Iranian opposition movement "Mojahedin-e Khalq" led by Musad Rajavi, who fled Iran three years ago and now lives in France in exile.

The five-man commando also mentioned their support for ousted Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, who is also living in exile here.

The sources said that so far the hijackers had not made known their demands to the French authorities.

Ambassador's Statement

LD071027 Tehran IRNA in English 0916 GMT 7 Jul 83

[Text] Kuwait, July 7 IRNA — Iranian Ambassador 'Ali Shams Ardakani criticised Kuwaiti officials for their lack of cooperation with Iranian Embassy officials during the stop-over of the hijacked Iranian plane at the Kuwaiti airport. Speaking to IRNA Wednesday here Ardakani said that Kuwaiti officials ignored the Iranian officials advice concerning refueling the hijacked plane. He added, Kuwaiti officials, in their obvious support to terrorism and hijacking, gave ten-hour fuel to the plane.

Ardakani said that Kuwaiti officials blocked the way of Iranian officials who wanted to meet hijacked plane's pilot and flight engineer who, during their stay at the Kuwaiti airport came out of the plane.

Giving an account collected from the released passengers, Ardakani said, the hijackers were raw hands and looked nervous. He said that efforts could be made to stop their fruitless mission through negotiations.

Ardakani, however, said Kuwait will be responsible for any probable casualties, and also political consequences of the event. On the other hand, Ardakani added, it was made clear to the Kuwaiti authorities that Iran would be responsible for all consequences if the plane would not be allowed to take off from Kuwait. But the Kuwaiti officials did not listen to us, he said. He added that the morale of the released passengers was high.

Ardakani said that the incident of hijacking clearly indicated that imperialist hand involved in the plot against the Islamic Republic. It also became clear that the international commitments for the security of the plane passengers and campaign against hijacking were all but talks and these had nothing to do with practical aspect.

Release of Copilot, 5 Passengers

NC071014 Paris AFP in English 1012 GMT 7 Jul 83

[Text] Paris, July 7 (AFP) — Hijackers holding an Iran Air Boeing-747 which landed here this morning released the co-pilot

and five of the passengers from the remaining 204 passengers and crew on board, reliable sources said. All six released hostages were apparently suffering from severe shock, though unharmed.

The hijackers, thought to number five and to be armed with machine pistols and explosives, had earlier released 186 people from the plane's original complement of 390, when it landed at Kuwait last night.

The hijackers seized the plane over Iran yesterday, during a flight between Shiraz and Tehran.

The released co-pilot was being questioned by French security forces.

Demand for Extradition

LD071101 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Jul 83

[Text] Our country's Foreign Ministry spokesman has announced: None of the demands made by the plane hijackers should be met and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran demands the extradition of all the hijackers.

Majlis Speaker's Reaction

LD071042 Tehran IRNA in English 0922 GMT 7 Jul 83

[Text] Tehran, July 7 (IRNA) — "We know that the international arrogance, Zionism, and reactionary circles will do their best in order to make the world ignore the Qods day, the innovation of Imam Khomeyni, and Iran expected such a plot at this crucial juncture", said Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in the open session of the Majlis today.

He added that the Muslim world should use this day of Qods (the last Friday of the month of Ramadhan consecrated by Imam Khomeyni in 1979 to designate the Palestinian movement in which all Muslims all over the globe were called on to demonstrate in solidarity with the movement of Palestine and against the brutalisations of the Zionist regime and its supporters) in order to keep the Palestine movement alive forever.

He said such a task through the people and popular moves, was something which was opposed by colonialism, Zionism, and reactionary circles in the Persian Gulf region since they have always wanted to propound the Palestinian issue through their desired means and the regional dependent regimes.

Designating a day for Qods and having popular demonstrations on it for the cause in the world of Islam, was very unpleasant for them, noted the speaker.

He said the Iranian gallant nation will nonetheless respond to the call fo Imam Khomeyni in the Friday prayers tomorrow to speak for the Palestinian and the world Muslims.

He stressed that the world imperialists, Zionists and the reactionaries aimed at ignoring such a day and the vanguard position of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Adding that each year at this time the enemies of Islam created scenes to divert the world attentions from the international day of Qods, as in last year, (they) martyred the Friday prayers leader of Yazd, Ayatollah Saduqi, [word indistinct], he said this year they resorted to hijacking a plane by several frenzied kids belonging to the U.S.-backed Monafaqeen splinter group.

The speaker said the incident was no accident, since Kuwait, France and certainly the U.S. hands were in it, as in previous events he said the U.S. ambassadors negotiated with hijackers in the Bahrain airport and invited them to seek asylum.

He added that such a joint plot by the said circles will have the opposite effect as to what they had wished in the beginning as it has been shown in the past.

In conclusion, he said the people themselves should cut down the hand of the Persian Gulf magnates who were active in these plots and that the Zionist regime will not be eliminated unless the yoke of such rulers is wiped out from their people.

Tehran Television Account

GF071118 Tehran International Television Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 7 Jul 83

[Text] On the eve of the international Jerusalem Day and following French External Relations Minister Claude Chyesson's quick visit from Jerusalem to Baghdad and his meetings with officials of the Zionist entity occupying Jerusalem and of the Saddam regime, a passenger airliner has been hijacked from the Iranian airspace by the hypocrite agents of world Zionism.

The airliner landed at Kuwait airport. Reports indicate that the passengers, who are Iranians, clashed with the hijackers after they learned of their intentions.

By using arms, the hijackers gained control of the airliner and forced it to land at Kuwait airport. At Kuwait airport, women and children were allowed to leave the airliner, the hijackers were supplied with a sufficient quantity of water, food, and money, and the airliner then flew to its final destination, Paris.

Although officials at Paris airport announced that they would not allow the hijacked plane to land, yet latest reports by Western news agencies indicate that the hijacked airliner landed peacefully in Paris and all landing facilities were provided for it.

News reports indicate that the hijackers are scheduled to participate in a news conference in Paris today or tomorrow. French, American, and Israeli journalists are preparing to attend the conference.

A report by the Central News Unit at the Iranian Voice and Vision from London indicates that Western media broadcast from the time of the hijacking last night until this morning 4,693 news reports on the hijacking.

It should be noted that the United States, Israel and their agents carried out attempts and measures to block the ceremonies of the international Jerusalem Day in Muslim countries. But this year tough security measures have been taken in all Middle East countries which are allies to the United States to block the celebrations of international Jerusalem Day. Media in these countries try to cast this day into oblivion.

An expert on Palestinian issues has told our correspondent that France, which is now considered the primary arms supplier of the Iraqi regime and is supporting Israel and the United States in the war against the Islamic Revolution in the Middle East, has become the major pivot for U.S. agents fighting the freemen in the Middle East and Muslim revolutionaries. The expert referred to the interference of French experts in the massacre of struggling Iraqi clergymen which was committed by the Saddam regime and said: This must be taken into consideration.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,368

*LD061742 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT
6 Jul 83*

[Communique No 1,368 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Continuing their just battle against the wrongful Saddamist forces, Islam's fighting forces are successfully pursuing their combat operations on all battlefields.

On the southern fronts yesterday, our combatants continued to defend their positions and, by firing on the Saddamists' deployment positions, prevented their movements and traffic.

In the Kushk area, our forces identified and opened fire on an enemy patrol unit, forcing enemy servicemen to flee after suffering casualties.

In the Sharhani region too, our combatants captured a number of weapons left behind by Iraqi servicemen following their unsuccessful operations in the region.

On the other southern fronts, exchanges of fire continued. Our forces' heavy weapons fire destroyed one enemy truck carrying servicemen, one engineering vehicle, and several trenches and foxholes.

On the western fronts, the Islamic forces' fire killed a number of enemy servicemen on the battlefields in Ilam and Bakhtaran. On these fronts, operations by our patrol and ambush units continued along sensitive points and infiltration routes.

At 1930 on 4 July, the enemy feigned an offensive in the Chogha Hammam sector but was smashed by our forces.

During the past 24 hours, enemy air operations and raids by Iraqi aircraft against border points were neutralized by our ground-to-air defensive weapons.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Musavi on Need To Attract Experts From Abroad

*LD041921 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT
4 Jul 83*

[Text] This morning the official in charge of the bureau for attracting committed and expert individuals from abroad met with Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi.

In this meeting, the official in charge of the bureau for attracting committed and expert individuals from abroad, while presenting a report about the activities of the bureau, informed the prime minister about the difficulties of attracting committed and expert individuals from abroad and the success so far achieved in this field.

Prime Minister Musavi then said: The task of attracting committed experts is one of the goals which if carried out side by side with productive programs of the country and the shortage of medical and technical cadres is of great importance. [sentence as heard] In this connection, all the ministries and organizations should cooperate with this bureau. Any activity which would impede this work is contrary to the wishes of the imam of the nation and contrary to the repeated counsels of Ayatollah Montazeri to make the best use of experts who volunteer to serve the Islamic Republic.

The prime minister added: The question of complete adjustment of some of the experts who have spent many years in a foreign environment and who now volunteer to work in the Islamic Republic is something that should be done in a guided, long-term manner in keeping with the administrative order and on the basis of proper management. As it has been stated in the list of the duties of the bureau in charge of attracting committed and expert individuals, none of the correspondence of any of such experts, even if some of them possess unfavorable files, should be left unanswered, either positively or negatively.

Referring to the remarks of the imam of the nation that the present position of individuals should be considered, the prime minister added: If some people do not have good records but they express remorse for their past deeds and if you are sure that their past deeds have not harmed anyone and if their offense is not of a general nature, you can make use of them where appropriate and you should not pay any attention to hostile atmospheres.

Kord Kuy Governor Discusses African Tour

GF021642 Tehran IRNA in English 1619 GMT 2 Jul 83

[Text] Tehran, July 2, IRNA — The governor of Kord Kuy, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rowhani-Fard, who has recently visited several African countries, speaking to IRNA here today stressed that more Islamic theologians should be dispatched to the African Continent.

He further added that despite the fact that some African leaders were opposed to Islamic thoughts the Muslim people of the African countries were very dynamic and hopeful. Furthermore, African people and politicians were well informed of Iranian affairs including the 34-month-old Iraqi imposed war. People of

the countries that were visited, he added, considered Imam Khomeyni as the leader of the world oppressed.

He also referred to donation of foodstuffs to some African countries by the Islamic Republic of Iran, and called it an effective humanitarian step.

Health Minister Leaves on Visit to Cuba

LD061012 Tehran IRNA in English 0914 GMT 6 Jul 83

[Text] Tehran, July 6 IRNA — Health Minister Dr Hadi Manafi, heading an Iranian delegation, left for Havana, Cuba this morning.

The minister along with the experts in health care facilities in his ministry will inspect health centres in Cuba.

1,000 Overseas Iraqi Kurds Join Revolutionaries

GF070802 Tehran International Service in Arabic
0700 GMT 7 Jul 83

[Text] About 1,000 Muslim Iraqi Kurds, who had been living outside of Iraq, joined the Muslim Kurdish revolutionaries last week. This report has been confirmed by the Muslim resistance center in Iraqi Kurdistan which assumed organization and expansion of the Islamic struggle of the Muslim Kurdish revolutionaries.

Political circles in Paris have described the (?oppression) being practiced against the Muslim movement in Iraqi Kurdistan, which recently spread outside Iraq, as being beyond the control of the Iraqi regime's security and military forces. The sources did not rule out the possibility of sending units from remnants of the Saddam regime's forces to northern Iraq to oppress the Muslim Kurdish revolutionaries.

IRNA Comments on UN Fact-finding Commission Report

Part I

GF041735 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 4 Jul 83

[Part I of IRNA commentary: "U.N. Report: A Partial Admission of Facts But Worded To Satisfy Baghdad"]

[Text] Tehran, July 3, IRNA — A United Nations investigating commission, published a report in late June on the findings of a UN fact-finding delegation which inspected civilian areas in Iran and Iraq recently. The report explicitly says that Iran's civilian quarters had suffered more damages than those in Iraq. The following is a commentary on the subject compiled by IRNA's news desk.

The invading and warring Government of Iraq has suffered a set-back as a result of Iran's diplomatic move in inviting a U.N. delegation for visiting civilian quarters in Iran, devastated in the course of the imposed war.

Although Baghdad has alleged the ruining of a few Iraqi locations by the Iranian forces, however it has made every effort to prevent the publishing of the news of the report of the UN delegation. The Western and Zionist as well as the Eastern block leaders and the avowed enemies of Islam who command the world mass media and who manipulate and shape public opinion throughout the globe gave a pledge of collaboration with the Ba'thist government in Baghdad, and naturally, too, fulfilled their pledge.

Complimenting this conspiracy of silence, the Western propaganda experts also proposed a number of attention-getting schemes for implementation by Baghdad in order to overshadow even the negligible impact of the report of the UN fact-finding so that Saddam Husayn's profile as portrayed by the West might not be in any way defiled.

The report of the UN delegation was hardly published when Baghdad published ostentatiously a proposed scheme for committing Iran and Iraq against attacking civilian targets in each others countries. Later Baghdad launched out another sensational and attention getting propaganda in the form of a proposal for observing a cease-fire with Iran during the month of Ramadan. Baghdad then requested an investigation into the status of the prisoners of war by a delegation commissioned by the United Nations, as though it had really forgotten the written orders of the Iraqi commanders for executing many Iranian prisoners of war.

To compliment all these the media in the United States, Soviet Union, Britain, France as well as the Zionist and reactionary media simultaneously published propaganda for portraying Saddam Husayn as a peace-lover claiming that the Islamic Republic of Iran had not yet responded to the peace initiatives of Baghdad. Meanwhile Baghdad exploits the help of the BBC, the Zionist radio, and the broadcast media in Riyadh, and Radio Monte Carlo, as well as the VOA, Radio Moscow, and Cairo as rostrums for publishing sensational advertising in praise of Saddam's so called humanistic schemes, and do so in a bid to divert the attention of the world people from a report of the UN fact-finding team which is to be published soon.

The report of the U.N. delegation was published in New York on June 23rd. In an apparent conspiracy, the world media played down the report as a negligible event in a remote part of the world. The media gave only an insignificant selection on the news.

The Iraqi potentates, apparently satisfied to see that the news had been played down by the global media barefacedly reported in *Ath-Thawrah*, and *Al-Jumhuriyah* on the report of the UN delegation that the delegation had placed the blame on Iran for the havoc of the war...

Obviously the Ba'thists in Iraq cannot bring themselves to publish the report of the UN delegation in which efforts for sparing resentment towards Baghdad is apparent. However, is it possible to publish each and every day the news of alleged attacks against the city of Basra by the Iranian forces and at the same time decide not to take the UN team to the city for filing a report and

despite all such claim type no mention of the city in the UN report?...

Baghdad is dissatisfied with the UN report and so is Iran, but not for the same reasons. Baghdad is unhappy because a segment, however insignificant, of its war crimes in Iran has been exposed to the world, and Iran is angry because of the absence in the UN report of what was expected to be reflected in it.

We are dissatisfied and protesting against the report because in essence the report is incomplete and unfair. We have the right to dispute the impartiality of the delegation for reason of a description of the immense destruction of the city of Khorramshahr in a mere 22 lines... which bears the scars of the gravest war crimes in the contemporary world history... while writing in about the same length (19 lines) about the Iraqi town of Zubayr which the delegation believes not to have incurred any substantial damage.

The world Muslims naturally have the right to question the compilers of this report as to why they have described the total ruining of the town of Hoveizeh in only nine lines, but devoted a full 14 lines for describing the damages inflicted upon the Iraqi town of Zurbatiyah, which damages in the judgment of the delegation were not more than five per cent...

For reasons as such the Muslim people of Iran continue to maintain that international organizations and their delegates are unlikely to be capable of doing anything in order to stop the invasion of Iran by the Ba'thist Government of Iraq, and that the ultimate move must be made in the battlefronts and by Muslim combatants of Iran.

The Iranian Muslims maintain that because of their position, and also because of the domination by the world powers, the various international organizations are incapable of and reluctant to punish Saddam Husayn.

In a bid to counteract the conspiracy of silence by the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran, it hereunder publishes the text of the full report of the UN delegation. [sentence as received]

Foreword by IRNA [IRNA subslug]

The commanding army officers in Iraq have claimed in their communique number 105 on May 28, 1983 that the Iraqi town of Zurbatiyah has been attacked 115 times by the Iranian forces. Iraqi officials have also claimed that 25 percent of the town has been irreparably damaged. But the report of the UN delegation says the damage has been about five percent. The UN delegation has referred to only three houses as having incurred partial and insignificant damage, and the walls of a mosque somewhat damaged as a result of being hit by shrapnels.

The UN report says that no part of Zurbatiyah has been severely damaged, and that no building was shown to the delegation which had been damaged beyond repair.

The UN report reminds that the Iraqi town was evacuated by its inhabitants for fear of imminent attacks by the Iranian forces, but has implied albeit without intention, that despite the Iraq

claims, the Iranian forces never shelled the city despite their being in a vantage position overlooking the Iraqi town.

The U.N. report in page 19, writes about Zurbatiyah as follows:

86. Zurbatiyah lies on an all-weather road which runs parallel to the border. The town was completely deserted. Except for air defense units deployed around the town, the mission saw no other military units within the town limits. There were, however, several military emplacements seen along the approaches to the city.

87. The mission saw two houses which showed moderate damage from fragment impacts. A third house, on the outskirts, had received a direct hit. The mission was also shown a mosque which had slight pockmarks from shrapnel. On inquiry about the previous days hit, the mission was told that the impact point had not been located, as it was inside some palm groves.

88. The mission was not shown any part of the town that was heavily damaged or any building destroyed beyond repair from its observation. The mission estimates the total damage to the town to have been around 5 percent. The mission formed the impression that the town had been evacuated because of the potential damages from shelling since it was once more well within the range of Iranian guns.

Part II

GF041751 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 4 Jul 83

[Part II of IRNA commentary: "U.N. Report: A Partial Admission of Facts But Worded To Satisfy Baghdad"]

[Text] Tehran, July 4, IRNA — The following is Part II of a commentary by IRNA's desk on the report of a U.N. delegation which visited Iran and Iraq last month.

"The absence in the report of any statement authenticating Baghdad's claims can well be interpreted as a dismissal of Iraq's claims. The delegation's report on the town of Abu al-Khasib is also an unchallengeable evidence of the humanistic and Islamic ethics of the Iranian combatants for having spared residential quarters from attacks.

"The U.N. report says that the population of the town of Abu al-Khasib which is 79,000 has remained the same since the outbreak of the war. The town lies only one kilometre from the Arvand River and has been within the range of the Iranian artillery fire since the start of the war. The Iraqis have said that there is a fertiliser plant near the town which has been the target of 2,400 shells from a total 3,078 shells launched by the Iranian forces since the first day of the war. They have said the plant ceased to operate in the early days of the war as a result of attacks upon it by the Iranian forces, and that the continuing shelling of the plant has made it impossible for the Iraqis to repair. The U.N. mission has said that in its judgment the plant has been the principal target of the attack of the Iranian forces and that any damage to the town has been incidental to the attack against this same target.

"The Iraqis have put the death toll in the city at six. But they have not specified whether they were killed in the town or within the premises of the plant and its surrounding area. The death toll of six is vividly insignificant for a city which as claimed by the Iraqis has been a repeated target of the Iranian forces since the outbreak of the war. The surprisingly low number of the killed in the city disproves Baghdad's allegation of the town's having been a permanent target of the Iranian artillery. The eyewitness report of the U.N. mission on the town does not indicate that the mission was satisfied that the town had been attacked. The report says the mission was taken to a school in the city. But it says later

that the school was located five kilometres from the town. Then it is naturally evident that the school is in the outskirts of the town and near the plant. The mission does not indicate whether the school's premises were used as a military headquarters or not.

"In brief the Iraqis did not find any damaged civilians location within one kilometre from Shatt al-Arab and did not take the mission to any such place during its stay there. Officials in Baghdad gave a warm 3-day reception to the mission during its stay in Baghdad mainly because they had nothing to show to the U.N. mission in the said town."